

## BOOK NOTICE

RAVEN, PETER H., RAY F. EVERT, and SUSAN E. EICHHORN. 1992. **Biology of Plants, Fifth Edition.** (ISBN 0-7901-532-2, hbk.) Worth Publishing Inc., 33 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003, (212) 475-6000, \$59.95. 791 pp.

Though not a degreed biologist by any stretch, I chose to review this book because I was initially struck by its cover. At first glance, I took it for a book on art history ... well, it is in fact an art book, but rather one on the art of Biology—a textbook on Biology to be exact. Science and art have been successfully blended here. My compliments to the designers and artists involved and to the publisher and authors who had the vision and understanding of how important exciting visuals are to the success of any publication and especially to textbooks. Knowledge is acquired so much more readily with the use of good visual material and it is not lacking here.

This is the fifth printing of this well known textbook with more full color throughout the book. Clear and more informative with new findings, chapters have been re-organized for more logical sequence. For instance, the Evolution chapter was moved to directly follow Genetics which is now in a chapter of its own. Extensive change is seen in Chapter 25 due to the many discoveries being made in plant hormones, particularly to molecular basis of hormone action, plant biotechnology and genetic engineering (recombinant DNA) technology. Boxed essays have been included in the Ecology section on the great Yellowstone Fire, on logging of ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest and competition for light in plant communities.

The fifth edition book maintains its interlocking themes of: 1) the plant body as a dynamic result of processes of growth and development carried out by chemical interactions, 2) evolutionary relationships as the guide to understanding form and function in organisms, 3) ecology as a way of emphasizing our dependence on plants to sustain our lives and those of all other living organisms.

To quote the authors ... "The fifth edition of *Biology of Plants* remains true to the book's original goals: to present basic information about plants in an accurate, accessible, well-illustrated, and interesting way."—*Linny Heagy*.